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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health . .

For the Year 1940.

Romsey & Stockbridge
Rural District Council

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Romsey & Stockbridge Rural District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1940. In accordance with instructions received from the Minister of Health, the report has been materially shortened, several items have been omitted and others dealt with as briefly as possible.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (Acres)	83672
Population (as estimated by Registrar-Gen.) ...	21690
Rateable Value	£103,023
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£441
Number of Council Houses	420

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total	
Live Births—				Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population 17·1
Legitimate ...	192	179	371	
Illegitimate ...	7	6	13	
Still Births	4	3	7	Rate per 1000 (live and still) birth—18
Deaths ...	145	119	264	Death Rate per 1000 estimated aver. population 12
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, child birth				From Sepsis—0 From other causes—2

Infantile Mortality. Death rate of infants under 1 year of age—

All infants per 1000 live births	50
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ...	50
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births ...	0
Deaths from Cancer, all ages	28
,, ,, Mea les	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough, all ages ...	0
,, ,, Diarrhœa, under 2	0

Of all causes of death, Heart desease accounted for 65, Cancer 33, Pneumonia 12, Tuberculosis 3, other circulatory 11, Cerebral hæmorrhage 17, Bronchitis 20, and Influenza 7.

There is an increase in the number of deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Cancer, a decrease in the number of deaths from Tuberculosis and the deaths from the other diseases are about the average.

The health of the school and welfare child has improved. War time feeding has had no apparent ill effects on the children and in a number ofcases the children appear to be in a better condition. This is probably due to several causes, the chief one probably being the additional milk available in the home, school milk and meals and increased wages of parents, brother and sisters. In a few cases the families of soldiers do not appear to be so well off financially but in one case the children looked so well that the teacher explained that the father apparently spent a good deal of the money earned in peace time and that they were better off financially with him in the Army.

In one school which was working part time, owing to the congestion caused by the presence of evacuees, the health of the children improved and the head teacher thought they were able to do their school work better. Parents however found the presence of the children at home a hindrance. Some of the school children are able to do their work with a little in reserve, but a number apparently have to work to 100 per cent. capacity to keep up with their work and there is no reserve to allow for the strain of growth and temporary ill-health. Shorter hours at actual lessons and the remaining time spent in cooking, gardening, physical exercises with a rest period on stretchers for all children would, I think, improve their condition mentally and physically. The health of the evacuee children continues to improve. Much publicity has been given to cases where people have been unwilling to take in evacuees, but little is heard of the great kindness shown over long periods by the majority of the people, who have willingly taken in these children. The parents have assumed that it was the duty of these people to look after their children and some apparently have shown little gratitude.

SECTION B.—General Provision of Health Services.

(1) *Nursing in the Home.*

There is no nursing arrangement or contribution by the Local Authority.

(2) *Laboratory Facilities.*

The County Laboratory provides facilities for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

An emergency Laboratory has been established at Winchester since Sept., 1939, for an area which includes Romsey.

(3) *Hospitals.*

(a) WAR. Group 1B. Romsey and District Hospital.
Group 2. Romsey Emergency Hospital.

(b) INFECTIOUS. Where cases cannot be satisfactorily nursed at home, they are admitted, by arrangement, to the Salisbury and District Isolation Hospital. Cases in the Redbridge, Millbrook and Chilworth areas are admitted to the Southampton Isolation Hospital.

(4) *Air-Raid Casualty Services.*

These are under the control of a Joint Committee formed of representatives from the Romsey Borough and Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council.

SECTION C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Closet Accommodation.

The conservancy system is in general use in the District, but cesspools are common. Some of the houses in the parish of Millbrook drain into Southampton Corporation Sewers.

Public Cleansing.

Scavenging is carried out by some Parish Councils. Cesspools are emptied by Contractors in the Millbrook area.

SECTION F.—Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other diseases.

The admission of Senior and other children to Romsey Schools from different areas of the Rural District and the nearness of a large Borough to part of Rownhams and Millbrook has rendered the control of infectious diseases difficult.

Scarlet Fever. Of the 61 cases 46 occurred in a Preparatory School which had been evacuated.

Diphtheria, Of the 6 cases of Diphtheria, one has been partially immunised.

Cerebo Spinal Meningitis. 4 cases were notified, all were removed to hospital and there were no deaths.

Apart from the outbreak of Scarlet Fever in the evacuated Preparatory School, the presence of evacuees has not made much difference in the incidence of infectious diseases.

Full use has been made of the arrangements for examination of pathological and bacteriologial specimens at the County Laboratory. No occasion arose for utilising the services of the Emergency Laboratory.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR, 1940.

Disease	Total Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	61	16	0
Diphtheria	6	6	1
Enteric Fever	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	1	0
Pneumonia	5	2	0
Chicken Pox	16	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	12	1	0
Measles	31	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	4	4	0

CANCER

Deaths :—Males 15, Females 18, Total 33.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1940 :

New cases notified ... 3
Deaths 3

TABLE.

Causes of death in Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District, 1940.

Causes of Death.	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	145	119
5. Diptheria	—	1
6. Tuberculosis Resp. ...	3	—
7. Syphilitic	1	—
8. Influenza	4	3
13. Cancer	15	18
17. Diabetes	1	3
18. Cerebral Hæmorrhage etc....	10	7
19. Heart diseases	35	30
20. Other circulatory diseases ...	5	6
21. Bronchitis	12	8
22. Pneumonia	2	10
24 Duodenal ulcer etc. ...	4	—
26. Appendicitis	1	—
27. Other digestive diseases ...	4	2
28. Nephritis	2	2
30. Other maternal	—	2
31. Premature birth	1	—
32. Congenital malformation and birth injuries	7	4
33. Suicide	1	1
34. Road traffic accidents ...	4	1
35. Other violence	7	3
36. All other causes ...	25	18

(a) Seven copies will be sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1.

(b) One copy to the Under Secretary (Statistical Branch), Home Office, Horseferry Road, London, S.W.1.

(c) One copy to the County Medical Officer.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. TATE, *Medical Officer of Health.*